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CIA-04 Marchetti, Victor
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SOC. 4.01-2 The Rope Dancer
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CIA Gadfly Welcomes Move To Streamline Spy Action

Victor Marchetti was in Dayton today feeling a little better about the future of the Central Intelligence Agency than he has in the past few months.

Marchetti, 41, worked for the agency 14 years. He left it two years ago and wrote a spy novel, "The Rope Dancers," which, he says, looks at the intelligence business realistically.

He also has been criticizing the agency, charging that it is too big, too wasteful, is dominated by the military and

lacks adequate congressional controls.

WHAT MADE Marchetti at least somewhat satisfied, if not happy with the agency, was the announcement from the White House last week that the agency's director, Richard Helms, has been given increased authority to coordinate and streamline the complicated U.S. intelligence community. Some cuts will be made in intelligence spending.

Marchetti does not exactly take credit for the action, but he said it vindicates the posi-

tion he has been taking in interviews and radio and television appearances.

Marchetti estimates that the U.S. intelligence community involves expenditures of about \$6 billion yearly and the efforts of 75,000 to 200,000 persons, depending upon the definition.

HE SAID he feels that \$1 billion to \$2 billion could be cut from the spending. Much of his criticism is leveled against the so-called action elements which involve paramilitary, psychological warfare, and political action as

opposed to the classical intelligence function of gathering and analyzing information.

He said the agency started its own "private war" in Laos, beginning in 1962, with U.S. spending running \$500 million yearly.

"The same kind of thing happened in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Cuba," he said.